

COMRADE

Incorporating ACTION and UNION

Newsletter of Friends of O.M.



No. 47

'The Spirit Lives...The Rest Will Follow'

November 16, 1996

'I could not ask to live at any other moment of history than this, because never before has Mankind been confronted with such choices of disaster or greater heights. Do live in that sense that you are Englishmen, are Europeans, that you come from people who faced tremendous odds again and again. Much is against you but you have within you that Will, that Spirit, above all that Faith and Belief which will lead the generations to come to look back at you in the pages of history with the proud words:

"To England, To Britain, To Europe -- They were true?"

Oswald Mosley, 1963

November 16th 1996 his Centenary

Still sounds the indomitable beating heart,
still echoes the inspiring voice,
still abounds the unquenchable spirit

MOSLEY LIVES

By
Peter
Kennedy

**Yesterday—
Today—
Tomorrow**

A CENTURY on from his birth, OSWALD MOSLEY, and the Movement he led defy the categorisation of a political phenomena in a moment of time. Through the backdrop of their great crusades, the man and the Movement reach out with a timeless call, and one scarcely more urgent than this new dark age.

Mosley and those who took up his cause are the inspiring example of what might be achieved when large numbers of our fellow countrymen and women say "Enough" and go into the streets and lanes of Britain to proclaim a message of national recovery and renaissance.

Sixteen years after his death, the Great Englishman and European remains an outstanding figure of creative imagination, courage and inspiration, the role model of the union of the intellect and will which he saw as the highest instrument of political action.

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'Mosley was genuinely loved by his followers. He had that rare gift for inspiring devotion and fidelity'

'Hence the fury of the Establishment...he laughed at their blandishments and their prizes. His scathing opinion of the old party game was what they detested most about him'

ROBERT ROW Page 3

IN SADNESS and with warm memories we report the death of



'MICK' CLARKE, one of founders of East London's first British Union branch, his dedication and leadership building N/East Bethnal Green into the largest branch. Later he became National

Propaganda Administrator until detained in 1940. He was Mosley's last surviving British Union senior officer.

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British Union
ROLL OF HONOUR
1939 1945

We Follow

For some will shudder, and
will weep to think
That out of all the world
you are the star
For us to follow - even
to the brink
Of whoso'er you lead.
If it be far
Or fatal, then our
footsteps follow too:
For, pledged to thee, to
that pledge we are true.

Thus, with the vow we
make, our thanks we give
To you who tore the pattern
of our lives in shreds,
And hang the tattered
remnants up aloft
To wave, a mute reproach
above our heads —
A bitter challenge for
the world to see.
For all thy scorn we
render thanks to thee!

We ask no easy path —
Show us a way
That's harder, grander,
nobler than of old.
Teach us to strive, and
glory in the strife,
Nor falter when the flame
of life grows cold;
But meet Death with a
laugh, nor tear or sigh.
We ask thee, Leader, teach
us how to die!

PASQUIN 1939

They Followed

BANCS, Lt. Jack P. L.: R/Sussex Rgt (att. Gloucesters): 20: one of three Brighton British Union killed WW2: at Stampersgate, Holland: lies Geel Cemetery, Belgium. 3 November 1944

BUCKNELL, Sgt. Ronald: RAF (VR) 83 Sqdn: 24: Croydon British Union missing Berlin Op: Remembered Air Force Memorial, Runnymede. 15 November 1944

GILLIES, W/O John H.: RAF (VR) 511 Sqdn: 26: 1 of 3 Leytonstone City High Schl pupils joining Leytonstone Branch British Union killed WW2: BU speaker: Remembered Air Force Memorial, Runnymede. 30 November 1943

WILTE, Lt. Albert E.: R/Navy VR: 36 Lost HM Trawler Northern Rover: Leicester British Union. Remembered Lowestoft War Memorial. 5 November 1939

MOSLEY — Britain's Lost Leader says Peter Kennedy

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I have lost count of those who have said to me, 'If Mosley was alive today, he'd sweep the country!' Who among us would dissent from that?! Even those who balk at the prospect would have to agree that the interaction of the most gifted politician in British history, with the forces of decline and sleet in this age of national ignominy would be stimulating indeed!

Two years ago the Establishment was caught in a spin when a Daily Express opinion poll showed that a third of the British people would vote for a Le Pen were such a leader and party available in this country. With respects to M Le Pen, I would back a British thoroughbred to do even better!

Older readers of *Comrade* are likely to have personal recollection of Mosley's remarkable personality and qualities; a creative, analytical intellect allied to great charisma, energy, courage unequalled in British politics, and legendary gift of speech that spoke to reason and the heart. To be loved is not a condition to which even the more admirable politician can usually aspire, but Mosley was genuinely loved by his followers. He had that rare gift for inspiring devotion and fidelity. When his biographer, Robert Skidelsky said that Mosley developed a personal relationship with the people of East London unique in British politics, this was also the exuberant representation of the wider bond between the man and the movement.

Fate's elusive gift

"If only Mosley.....!" Awesome indeed were the gifts that Mosley took into his life's battle, but.... and here surely is where the IF is located.....they were unconsumed by fate's most critical and elusive gift; timing.

British Union was launched when the slump had peaked. Even so it grew over a seven year period during which the jobless trend dipped and the "international situation" got worse. Scarcely conducive factors for a rev-

'a courage
unequalled in
British politics'



Mosley leaving hospital after being knocked unconscious by a shower of bricks from a Red mob at an open air meeting in Liverpool in 1937. His message "We fight on and fight harder."

olutionary patriotic movement urging "Mind Britain's Business."

Yet despite this, the Movement entered the life of the nation as no other young political force has ever done. It set about destroying the class-based political culture of Britain, confronting the patriotism versus progress orthodoxy by uniting each in a dynamic new creed.

Mosley silenced a prelude to ending Great Britain

In doing so of course it inevitably attracted (to a degree unparalleled in British history) the hatred of the forces of class war, liberalism and reaction, its membership peaking on the eve of the war that was silence British Union as a prelude to putting an end to Great Britain.

As Mosley said, for the Movement, the war (an event that saw the paradoxical coalition of British class warriors and reactionaries) was a disaster of limitless proportions.

'Mosley developed a personal relationship
with the people of East London
unique in British politics'



With "Good old Mosley" East Enders greet him when he spoke at Salmon Lane, Limehouse after he headed a walk of thousands from a meeting at Victoria Park Square, Bethnal Green, a week after the 'entire population of East East London had risen against him in the so-called 'Battle of Cable Street' on October 4, 1936, a suggestion that prompted Special Branch to report was 'far from reflecting accurately the state of affairs'.

When it was over, the potent and enduring legacy of the Establishment's anti-Mosley propaganda, combined with 50s 60s tranquility and prosperity to ensure that the new Union Movement fought along a very hard and inhospitable road. So for the second time in four decades, a ruinous Establishment and its placemen were fortunate in History's caprice.

What might have been achieved had fate showered the gift of beneficent timing on a man of genius rather than on the Macmillans, Wilsons and Majors? No war, no loss of Empire; no servility to foreign bankers and politicians, no "multi-cultural" Britain.

Instead, a peaceful, noble, dynamic, homogeneous Britain - a nation wherein, to recall the Objects of British Union, "All shall work and thus enrich their country and themselves.... Opportunity shall be open to all, but privilege to

none...and...the barriers of Class shall be destroyed and the energies of every citizen devoted to the service of the British Nation." Compare these words and vision with the conditions of Britain today.

But if Oswald Mosley is THE Lost Leader, what residual strength and encouragement can we draw sixteen years after his death? Surely this; that Mosley's life and record, and that of his Movement, are an extinguishable beacon in a very long night in the life of our country and Continent.

We are no longer a homogeneous, racially coherent nation. Even to speak of "Britishness" is to court the surveillance executives of the race thought police. To this extent alone, the challenge before us is greater than at any time in our history.

Our politicians are muddling us into crisis

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Needed more than ever in this age of sleaze and corruption amid scenery of decadence and decay says Robert Row

It was said by his political enemies in the 1920s that OSWALD MOSLEY was "born with a golden spoon in his mouth". The sanctimonious guardian of the Labour Party's conscience, Arthur Henderson, often referred disparagingly to Mosley as "the rich young man". But the Fates appeared to have showered the young man with every sort of gift: a distinguished record in the Royal Flying Corps over Flanders fields in the recent war, skill as a swordsman, great stature, charisma, brains, a formidable speaking style, wit, repartee, the ability to cast down opponents in debate. Mosley seemed to have it all. Little wonder that he was soon spoken of as a future prime minister.

So the flatters gathered round as his name soared like a meteor and his oratory drew the crowds. Fleet Street feature-writers singled him out. Hostesses competed to get him into their drawing rooms. That tedious old Fabian gasbag Beatrice Webb gushed in her diary; "We have just made the acquaintance of the most attractive man in the House of Commons", though very primly she feared that so much brilliance concealed dark motives. It was a time when most politicians were dull and grey and the colourful Mosley was just what the political system needed to liven it up.

Hence the fury of the Establishment, the mass media and the money power -- the unholy triumvirate that directs British politics to this day -- when they found he laughed at their blandishments and their prizes. Mosley's scathing opinion of the old party game was what they detested most about



'And he gave them a uniform, the blackshirt, raising them above the differences of class, making them an elite...And he gave them a spirit'

him. His attitude to the political system was scrap it and get a new one.

Mosley went into politics with two missions, to stop Britain being involved in a second world war and to build "a land fit for heroes to live in" promised in the first one. He entered Parliament in 1918 in his twenties as the youngest M.P. He had gained a lifetime's experience by the time he was through his thirties. Secretary of the New Members' Association that spoke for the soldier-M.P.s of 1918, active on the Peace with Ireland Council, he then went on to collaborate with Keynes in developing his economic ideas. By 1925 Britain was in the grip of a great deflation. Government and parliament abdicated as the bankers put the whole country through the mangle. That was the time when Prime Minister Baldwin got up to tell Britain it had to accept "a big reduction in wages", making a mockery of the pledged land fit for heroes to live in.

He stood by striking miners to the end

Mosley's reply to Baldwin was to sharpen the invective in his already stinging speeches. When

the General Strike in 1926 began, in support of the miners facing drastic cuts in their living standards, he was in the forefront of the resistance. But when the T.U.C. leaders lost their nerve, called off the strike and left the miners to their fate, Mosley stood defiant. The miners stayed out to the following winter until starvation forced them back to work at slashed pay. Mosley stood by them to the end, speaking again and again to packed meetings in their support.

More disillusionment lay ahead. By 1929, Tory prosperity based on deflated industrial wages was wearing thin. The coming Great Depression was hammering at the door. That year commodity prices were beginning to collapse worldwide, ominously for a Britain proudly claiming to be the world's leading trading nation. And in the General Election of that year the craft Stanley Baldwin contrived to loose it to serve his long term party strategy, handing over power to a Labour Party he knew would be overwhelmed by the problems on the way. In fact the Labour Party leaders had not the slightest idea what to do about the

Depression, until the crisis broke in August 1931 and the roof fell in on the whole bewildered gang.

Mosley was one of the ministers responsible for unemployment; characteristically he was given not given power to do anything. He endured Labour's clowning farce until Christmas 1929, when he put together his own ideas to deal with the rising unemployment. Famous as the Mosley Memorandum, it has since been highly praised by men like Professor A.J.P. Taylor and Richard Crossman. In 1930 however nothing was done about it for five months and the rejected outright, whereupon Mosley resigned from the government. Yet still Labour paralysed while the country sped towards an economic Niagara, Mosley launching his New Party in March 1931. It had a few stormy months before the crisis broke and a bogus coalition of old political duds was then hurriedly assembled as the "National Government of Great Britain". Such was the panic in the country that this blatant trick was acclaimed as a reassuring step! In the following General Election so hard-faced was the deception that the very men who had muddled Britain into the crisis were now presented as the prophets of better times ahead.

Mosley shed all his illusions

And a thankful country, recovering from its fright, voted for better times ahead. The New Party which had told the truth was wiped out at the polls. That was enough for Mosley who had now shed all his illusions. In October 1932 he founded the British Union of Fascists.

However, he paused to deliver a farewell jibe at the party for which he had worked so long and which had collapsed so ignominiously. Labour, he said, had spent years awaiting the

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◆ Mosley – Britain's Lost Leader

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with the rest of Europe, while courting the disaster of global free trade and the low wages, sweated conditions and all that comes with it. And linked with the unrestricted global market is another 21st Century nightmare; the threat of massive illegal immigration from the Third World to Britain and other European nations.

'What has happened to this country of theirs'

Meanwhile our young people stare into a future emptied of worthwhile work, homes, and a sense of fulfillment, but spewing out a sense of hopelessness and decay, crime, pornography and degradation. Older generations look on, wondering, fearing, what has happened to this country of theirs.

This much is certain. The political-social-cultural system that is responsible, reform itself. It must be swept away and replaced. Capitalism has sacrificed the happiness of many pursuit of profit. It has forgotten that an economy exists to serve the people, and not the other way round. It rejects the notion of community and nation, with mutual obligations and transcendent loyalties, and instead regards these as no more than marketing areas made up of individual, competing producers and consumers.

And worse could follow. The Daily Telegraph has cited a survey of 300 Conservative graduates, showing the "New Right Radicals" are indifferent to sexual ethics, oppose religion and favour the criminalisation of drugs. "They are individualist and very internationalist (while hostile to Britain in Europe). "They marvel at the globalisation of capital. They are not as rooted to the culture of the nation state as senior Conservatives might be." There heroes are John Redwood, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Victor Kiam.

If the Right have injected new life into the cliché about knowing the price of everything and the value of nothing, Socialism, now in eclipse, has also suppressed the human spirit, this time for the sake of standardised equality.

It opposes the dynamic, has a love affair with mediocrity, and cultural loyalty. At root - and seen in contemporary form, Political Correctness - British socialism in particular reveals a bias towards the perversion of the best in human nature. Each of these creeds, socialist and capitalist, is entirely material in its orientation, yet capable of leaving millions in destitution.

Mosley shows there is an alternative, and Comrade has performed an invaluable service in giving the historical record of what Mosley stood for, what his Movement achieved, the kind of men and women who supported him, and the ideals and policies that inspired them. Against the decades

of lies, vilification, fabrications and misrepresentations - a deep-died pattern which show no sign of fading - the truth is being told.

What would Mosley say to us in 1996? Here we can only speculate, but a combination of distinctive principles, noble vision, and an ever adapting response to changing circumstances are surely the basic factors.

Mosley's thinking was always ahead of events. He spared little thought for the past, living in the present and viewing the future. Mosley's proposals for 1948 had moved on from those of 1938, because the world situation had changed. By 1962 and again in 1972 they had adapted yet again. The approach of a new century would find his response ranging once more, re-aligning his core

thinking to new conditions. We must follow that example.

The quest for community, a desire to re-discover national identity, and the belief that a new socio-economic order is required, are the three principle convictions cited by the historian Roger Eatwell, as post-Fascism's challenge to socialism, capitalism and liberalism, now "re-emerging on the European mental landscape."

It is a landscape which must be shaped by the life's work of Oswald Mosley and the Movement he led. The Spirit - and the Example - Lives....the Rest will Follow.

◆ Mosley – Needed more than ever

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day when capitalism would fail and the hour of socialism would strike. The big day had come, but what happened? Labour's leaders had deserted to the enemy and the party faithful had fled the field. "What are we to think of a Salvation Army which takes to its heels on Judgement Day?"

Throughout his life Mosley poured out a succession of policies of action for the great issues of the day. That had been one of his main contributions to the Labour Party and New Party alike, and some of his greatest thinking was done for the B.U.F. Indeed there was a new seriousness about him from that time on, as the words from the Introduction to his book "The Greater Britain" show.

"We ask those who join us to march with us in a great and hazardous adventure. Not without struggle will the future be won. We ask the to be prepared to sacrifice all, but to so for no small and unworth ends. We can only offer to them the deep belief that they are fighting that a great land may live".

It was with the same dedicated spirit that Julius Caesar and a few thousand men crossed the Little River Rubicon and

set out on their epic march to change completely the old Roman world.

Mosley was not only a hard innovative thinker. He was also probably the most dynamic British orator of his time. The "Manchester Guardian" reported one of his meetings on his road to fascism:

"He begins very smilingly with some reference to his legend, but he has not got very far before the smile disappears, and the face says 'into battle'. It is an earnest gripping mood. First the apathetic audience is arrested, then stirred, and finally swept off its feet by a tornado of a peroration yelled at the defiant high pitch of a tremendous voice -- a peroration the old men 'who muddled my generation into the crisis of 1914... who have laid waste the power and glory of our land....from whose tired old hands, stained with blood and disasters innumerable, our flag is slipping into dust and dishonour'"

'Came the quickening beat of Mosley's drum'

Thus it was not just another party, not just another movement that he led in the B.U.F. His purpose was to gather men and women and to re-



'Probably the most dynamic British orator of his time'

new them in order that they renewed their country. Across the land there came the quickening beat of Mosley's drum, beating out the slogan "Britain First", "Britain First". And he gave them a uniform, the blackshirt, raising them above the differences of class, making them an elite. For nations are saved by elites, not mobs. And he gave them a spirit -- "the steel creed of an iron age" -- a creed needed more than ever in this age of sleaze and corruption, amid the scenery of decadence and decay.

"The choice before all great nations is heroism or oblivion" Mosley told the British people. That choice has now become of utmost urgency for Britain and for Europe.

LAST POST: In his Centenary Year Mosley's old East End boys laid to rest

Mick Clarke

THE LAST surviving senior officer of Mosley's British Union has died, in his 86th year, ERNEST GEORGE 'MICK' CLARKE. As the Movement's Senior Propaganda Administrator, he was one of the five who signed with Mosley the official Instruction to Members at the outbreak of the last war.

But it is not as a senior officer that he was remembered by his old comrades through the long years since the stirring events of the 1930s, and still is by the surviving few, but as the popular 'MICK' who pioneered British Union's mass movement in East London where he was spoken of as 'the idol of Bethnal Green'.

It was in BOW that MICK, then 23, and Patrick Owen Burke, both in the furniture business, opened British Union's first East London branch in the autumn of 1934, to be followed shortly after by North East Bethnal Green branch, an old stable in Green Street. Closley assisted by FOM's Cyril Plaskett and Dick Bullivant, it became by 1936, remained British Union's largest branch, its signed membership running into four figures.

At first the meetings at street corners were noisy, rowdy and violent, the opposition coming largely from local communists who saw the fledgling BUF as a dangerous competitor in securing working class support, and others who objected to the BUF's appeal of 'Britain First' and 'Britain for the British'. In those early days, night after night Blackshirts from NHQ in Chelsea bundled into the old vans and chase to Bethnal Green to help fight off the Red attacks on the meetings after receiving a riot-call. In time this became unnecessary as local enthusiastic support was achieved.

Mick Clarke's debut as a speaker was when a NHQ speaker failed to appear and was 'bullied' to mount the platform. His speech was from a policy leaflet after which he beat a hasty retreat as another speaker became available. He went to be regarded by the Movement, and outside observers, as one of the two best speakers after Mosley. Probably the best speech of his life was during the Munich crisis in September 1938 when at a huge "Britons Fight for Britain Only" meeting at Hammersmith, he held a 200-yard street to rapt and awesome

attention whilst awaiting Mosley's arrival.

One recalls the roar of the crowd as he quipped in response to the media's Adolf Hitler 'rape of Austria'. "Never has a maiden been raped so easy", or similar.

Mick Clarke became District Leader of North East Bethnal Green and then District Inspector of Bethnal Green. In March 1937, within three years of the Branch's birth, standing as a BU candidate in the LOC 'householders' Election, he achieved 23 per cent of the vote, beating the Liberals into second place. In 1938 he was appointed Propaganda Administrator by Mosley at NHQ, his friend and colleague Cyril Plaskett taking over his local duties and continuing the growth of the local movement.

Mick was detained under the 18B Emergency Regulations in 1940 and remained as a British Political Prisoner until September 1944. After the war he spoke once at Ridley Road, Dalston in the early days of Union Movement and again at a street meeting in Derby in the early 1950s but never returned to active politics.

He was one of the many who suffered hardship after the war through the unjust treatment of four years imprisonment without charge or trial. It is not been generally known that just before the war his only child, a son, died within several months of birth, and whilst Mick was detained and unable to deal with the problem, his marriage broke up. For some years after the war he great difficulty in securing employment because of his 'past' when unavoidably was made known to future employers. He married again in 1948 and after some years of struggle settled for a more peaceful life than that which had brought hardship to his middle years. And who would blame him?

He finally retired to a peaceful English village during which period he maintained contact with his close friends in British Union, and became a regular reader of Comrade as FOM at the same time maintained the secrecy of his whereabouts from those, even with the best of motives, were trying to trace him. One would not wish the inevitable publicity destroying his life for the second time, and in his declining years,

The 'Idol of Bethnal Green'



MICK CLARKE is 'mobbed' by young supporters in Bethnal Green when he was a candidate in the LOC Elections in March 1937

LOOKING BACK

A VERY SPECIAL DAY November 16th. And so it was in 1940, even if OSWALD MOSLEY spent it in Brixton Prison.

In honour of The Leader on his Centenary, and in tribute to MICK CLARKE, whose death we report in this issue, we publish an edited version of that day from CHARLIE WAITS's unpublished manuscript It Has Happened Here.

It was Ascot Concentration Camp and some 250 Blackshirts who had been imprisoned without trial for six months, had cleaned up and met in P.O.W.7, to celebrate with tea, toast, prunes and custard, OM's 44th birthday. As the tin cans were held aloft to toast 'The Leader', a life-like portrait of O.M. on a blackout board appeared from behind a curtain bringing spontaneous burst of cheering echoing and re-echoing throughout the building....

Mick Clarke followed - quietly at first. As his voice rose and in biting terms spoke with a force which even the old timers had rarely heard. He said their was only one other person he would rather have to answer the toast and that was the Leader himself. He read the message that had been sent in the form of birthday greetings to Brixton Jail.

"All of your old friends in Ascot P.O.W.7 Camp send you their sincere greetings for the 16th.

Our only wish is that your birthday could be celebrated under far different circumstances, but on this day our hearts go out to you, Sir, in friendship, loyalty and in Union.

Though many miles might separate us and circumstances of our detention differ - in spirit we are with you. History will indeed prove that we are as great as any patriots of our day, and with heads held high and chins well up we are firm in the knowledge that everything you

have done in the past with us has been for BRITAIN and her greatness.

Greetings - and for the present - Farewell, and may God speed the day of your release."

The storm that followed proved beyond doubt that everyone present felt that their own sentiments had been expressed in this message of loyalty. MICK CLARKE then went on to remind us of MOSLEY, his leadership and loyalty to the Cause and above all his rigid discipline. "If he can take it - then by God - so can we". "Our greatest Task," he said, "even during detention is to keep ourselves mentally and physically fit for the enormous task that lies ahead of us and every time we feel despondent or feel a desire to revolt against our lot we should just remember...MOSLEY. If we are to play our part, either as individuals or as a movement in the creation of a Greater Britain, the criterion of our success would be Loyalty and Discipline. Our Leader has always had and maintained that devoted loyalty to Country, People and Cause, so follow his example Blackshirts, in all things and be in readiness for a great and glorious future" He ended by bringing home to us the Leader's words.

"Together in Britain we have lit a flame that the ages shall not extinguish. Guard that Sacred Flame my Brother Blackshirts till it illumines the whole of Britain and lights again the paths of mankind".

5

Mosley's old East Enders

Jack Groves

Possibly, at 92, the oldest surviving member of British Union, East London born **JACK GROVES**, has died.

Hackney born Jack Groves joined the BUF in 1933 and became attached to Central Hackney Branch at Balls Pond Road, Dalston when it was formed in 1935. He was for a time Branch Propaganda Officer and trained to become an NHQ speaker and was a regular speaker at Ridley Road.

In 1937 he was transferred by NHQ to become for a short time District Leader of Walthamstow West Branch. A year later he left Hackney to set up home in Essex and transferred to Epping Branch and continued his active work and speaking with the branch until the government ban on British Union in 1940.

Jack Groves wife, who died a few years ago, was an active Blackshirt, and both parents active supporters who, though no longer young, joined BU marches with enthusiasm. When at Epping Branch he met the young **Eric Simpkins** who was to be in the London Drum Corps and in Union Movement's Drum Corps after the war. Eric, who died in 1988 married Jack's daughter **Pamela** who we are pleased to welcome at POM functions keeping up the family loyalty.

At the time of the mass BU arrests in 1940 his home was raided, including the lifting of floorboards, by the police. They confiscated his uniform and left and was then one of those 'lucky Blackshirts' who did not suffer the wartime imprisonment without charge or trial.

During the war, and getting on for 40, he volunteered for the army and navy without success. Work for his trade, bricklayer and general foreman was none existent so he took a degree in construction at a technical college. He then worked on building Mosquitos in an aircraft factory then became a builder in bomb damage work until the end of the war.

1946 saw him trying fields anew and as civil engineer worked in construction for Anglo-Iranian Oil where he was in charge of building two pavilions in Iran's 1951 Exhibition, and for Taylor Woodrow in Nigeria for 20 years. Returning to England in the 1960s he became Chief Clerk of Works for the City of London and also for

Reading University, retiring at 76! For over 20 years he and Mrs Groves had a second 'home' in Spain, taking up permanent residence in 1988.

"Although my parents remained abroad for many years their beliefs remained strong" daughter **Pam** told us. "They kept up with the news through **Comrade** which they shared with friends and neighbours. They had a very rich fulfilling life and always kept their beliefs in the principles of O.M."

Indeed they did. Interviewed in his late 80s, Jack Groves gave vent to his unshakeable loyalties.

"When I joined Mosley in 1933" he said, "conditions were for many in East London little better, if at all, like mine in 1929 when I was starving and daily spending from 7 until 7 looking for work. The Labour Party which projected the image of the worker's party seemed to be more interested in Russia than the British working man and with the Communists, and you could often see little difference, they scoffed at the Union Jack and glorified the Red Flag."

With the coming of the BUF, many of my friends and I heard what they had to say and saw they were the only honest patriotic party in politics. Mosley and his men told us exactly what they were going to do, no other party ever did that. We had nothing better than this. It will be a good thing and at least we will have leadership, not this fraud we call democracy"

'We marched in full uniform...and at five minutes to twelve changed into mufti and handed over our blackshirts to the priest'

So Jack Groves commitment was total and he was very proud of his uniform, which was banned by the government on January 1 1937 and about which he told of how "on New Years Eve many of our lads marched in full uniform to Midnight Mass and at five minutes to twelve changed into mufti and handed over our blackshirts to the priest". One wonders what ultimately happened to them.

"After that", he said, "more working class people were joining by 1938-39, the war being a tragedy not only for British Union but for Britain. All those politic-

Dickie Burwood

"I am not as sprightly as I was. I would give my right arm to be at Mosley's side today. He was **THE GREATEST**. I would have died for him" said Bethnal Green's 'battler' **DICKIE BURWOOD** on his 80th birthday on his reunion with old comrades shortly after the birth of **"COMRADE"**.

Sadly, as we go to press we have to report the death of our old comrade, who was still in his beloved Bethnal Green - "but now foreign territory" as he had recently put it - in his 91st year. Several old comrades, 'youngsters' in Dickie's heyday, paid their respect at his funeral.

Dickie's father was killed in the first World War and as the eldest of a large family of young children bore the brunt, with his widowed mother, of the hard battle of survival which was the lot of many in East London between the wars, their plight considered insoluble by the old gang political parties.

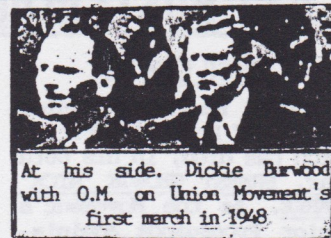
Despite the feeling of being left to rot by the democratic system, the mass of the British people in London's East End remained intensely patriotic, and it is no wonder that in the 1930s they were drawn to Mosley's British Union. Dickie was no exception but it was the catalyst of the 'Battle of Cable Street' in October 1936, which East Enders saw the organised violence to prevent them hearing what Mosley had to say, as an attack on their own patriotic culture by alien elements. He, and thousands like him, immediately joined British Union.

Dickie's commitment was total although he, and many like him never actually signed membership forms. They became dedicated for a lifetime and latter day researchers into the strength of British Union in the East End should consider this in their analysis of the Mosley story.

With the birth of the **Mosley Book Clubs** after the war, and

ians, stumbling all the time over our own British problems got themselves into a war which lost us everything - destroyed at one go. As for Churchill, determined to have his war, what a disastrous politician he was, everything he had tried he has destroyed.

And today, having lost everything which previous generations built, our political system with its politicians which they call democracy, and which is no good at all, has one attribute in which they excel, 'political correctness' which effectively is the



At his side, Dickie Burwood with O.M. on Union Movement's first march in 1948

Union Movement in 1948, Dickie threw himself into the battle of the streets, which in effect was the defence of Mosley and his Movement against the organised attacks of that Mafia-like group known as the 43 Group who specialised in the planned roaming of London's streets in motorcades to fall on and beat up lone or small groups of sellers of Mosley's paper, or indeed anywhere where there were Union Movement activities, providing those participating were heavily outnumbered.

'The 43 Group, whose sideline was the recruiting for the Jewish terrorists in Palestine...'

In around a 3-year battle of attrition, Dickie was at the forefront of those who countered this violence and by 1949 the 43 Group, whose sideline was the recruiting for the Jewish terrorists who were murdering British soldiers in Palestine, and some 'protection' of small Jewish tradesmen against non-existing threat for financial reward, had lost the taste for 'driving the fascists off the streets', and as 'enrolment had slowed down' they 'disbanded'. Their final demise came in June 1950 when, according to the **Jewish Chronicle**, the Jewish AJEX and Organised Jewry were responsible for them being wound up.

Later,, when violence again erupted in 1962, Dickie, though then 56, threw his battle-scarred body on top of Mosley to protect him after going down

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people of Britain abused by their own Government.

I and my comrades didn't join British Union to get anything out of it, but to support Mosley in his attempt to do great things for England. In age I have not changed. Once a Black-shirt you can never change. Its in the blood.

And Mosley, who always spoke without pieces of paper, straight from heart and brain leaving one wishing he would go on for ever.

He was the GREATEST Englishman who ever lived!

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Mosley's East Enders

Continued from Page 6

Dick Sayer

One of two early active members of British Union's Central Hackney Branch in Balls Pond Road, Dalston, who has sadly died, DICK SAYER, in his 89th year, joined in 1934 when he was licensee of Jacob Wells public house in Bishopsgate until starting a furniture business in Bow in 1936.

With the outbreak of war his business collapsed and he became an insurance agent until 1948 he again became a publican in Devon, remaining a Licensee until his retirement, and the loss of his wife when he moved to Somerset.

In British Union days, Dick Sayer got himself in all activities where these would not conflict with his professional life, and during the war took an active part with George Dunlop raising donations for the 18B British Detainees Fund.

With the end of the war he was involved again with George Dunlop in founding the short-lived "Independent Nationalists". After an interview with O.M. and learning of the probability that he would return to active politics, the new organisation was disbanded.

Dick Sayer lived alone for his last 23 years, reliving again and again his days with Hackney comrades in British Union. "I would not have changed a thing" he said shortly before his death. His loyalty to Oswald Mosley unquestionable.

Dickie Burwood

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under a hail of blows when arriving at a meeting at Ridley Road, Dalston.

The years rolled on and it was 5 years ago that Dickie faced his hardest and last battle. He lost his Mary, his partner for 62 years. As always, he took it on the chin and survived his declining years with his memories, of Mary, of Mosley, of his comrades in British Union, in Union Movement, in Friends of O.M., to whom he regularly donated from his meagre income, all of whom he loved.

We who still survive linger on by the example set, and our love of Oswald Mosley. We are also sustained by the example of loyalty, courage, and worth of Dickie Burwood, and it is also in our love that we offer this final testament.

IN MEMORIAM

"Hark! the sound of many voices,
Echoes through the vale of ages.
Britain listens and rejoices,
Gazing on Tradition's pages..."

BEVAN, Charles: Founder member West Ham(Upton) British Union Branch.

November 1938

BURWOOD, Mary: wife of Br. Union and Un. Movement's Dicky Burwood of Bethnal Green.

24 November 1991

DICK, Colin Roderoy: Br. Union businessman NHQ Branch: 18b British Political Prisoner: arrested on return from Dunkirk 1940 after rescuing some 500 troops in his machine-gunned motor launch

Advance: 22 November 1953

GOWING, Horace: Derby Br. Union: 18b British Political Prisoner: on release wartime founder Sons of St. George: Union Movement: at 30 from TB contracted in Walton Jail and Ascot Concentration Camp.

November 1949

HARDY SMITH, Mrs F.M.: early member Leicester Sth British Union: founder of Poor School Mission: at 87

November 1936

MAIN, Miss Christian: Lochinhead, Perth Br. Un. & U/Movement: November 1965

MANTO, Dorothy: Wom D/Ldr Chichester British Union: wife of D/Ldr Capt. F.E. Manico.

12 November 1949

MARSDAY, Captain D.M.K.: NHQ Br. British Union & mbr. BUF Automobile Club: RFL spotter first tank battle Cambrai WWI: propr. flying train, school: 18B British Political Prisoner: at 91.

6 November 1988

MENDHAM, F.W. 'Freddy': Br. Union D/Ldr Hackney: 18b British Political Prisoner: Union Movement Organiser Hackney South.

November 1960

MORRIS, John: Manchester Branch British Union

November 1936

O'DONEGAN, Rose: wife of old comrade PAT, Shoreditch British Union and South London Union Movement.

27 November 1986

PACKER, Charlie: Un. M accountant 1948-85: Mayor of Bexley 1978-9.

27 November 1985

PARSONS, H.J.: Aldershot Br. Union: 18b Political Prisoner: Union Movement.

19 November 1976

PRATT, Thomas Wilson: oldest Wilts Blackshirt: friend of OM's father and grandfather.

2 November 1936

RING, Margaret: mother of Ilford A/D/L and UM's Biddy.

5 November 1938

TAYLOR, Edward: Folkestone British Union

11 November 1936

VEALE, F.J.P.: solicitor mbr. Brighton Br. British Union & Union Movement: Action & Union contributor: author of Advance to Barbarism & Crimes

27 November 1976

WOOSTER, Dennis: Maidenhead British Union: in m/car acc. 16 November 1934

WHAT KIND OF MAN WAS MOSLEY?

BY GORDON BECKWELL

"What kind of man was Sir Oswald Mosley" I was asked by an interested observer of Mosley's life story, and who knew of my association with Friends of O.M. To answer his question I decided to record only my personal experiences.

I first saw him and heard him speak in London's Trafalgar Square in 1960 when I was 17. I cannot recall how I came to be there except it wasn't by chance. The entire Square was filled with people. Many thousands, though not all were supporters.

Suddenly, onto the plinth of Nelson's Column bounced this energetic 64-year old man in a grey double-breasted suit with a flashing smile. He spoke for an hour without notes or hesitation on the political crisis facing Britain and Europe. The issues were complex but his oratorical brilliance kept the whole audience rivetted. His central theme was his vision of a United Europe that would become so advanced and powerful, so wealthy and beneficial that it would surpass the achievements of both the Roman and British Empires. At the end of his speech, he took his place at the head of a marching column and was surrounded by crowds giving him the open-

handed outstretched arm Roman salute. I couldn't this was happening in post-war London, and then realised my arm was raised too.

Mosley's ideas and character left a deep impression on my own thinking and development. He was as much a philosopher as a politician and considered his greatest contribution to human thought was his Doctrine of Higher Forms. This defines the purpose of life as constant self-improvement brought about mainly by adversity and is in keeping with religious beliefs.

He was certainly a Man's Man. Once when an official of the early Blackshirt Movement insulted him, Mosley knocked him out with a single blow. The man after-wards became one of his most loyal followers. On a march on another occasion, a Red threw a brick which hit a Blackshirt woman in the face. Mosley saw who did it and left the column, running straight into a large Red mob where he gave the brickthrower a lesson in manners. Out-numbered ten-to-one, Mosley's 'Special Detachment' rescued him with difficulty. Such was the philosopher who could write the Doctrine of Higher Forms. No wonder so many young people look to his ideas and example today for inspiration.

Old Comrades



LATE NEWS

THE FOM CENTENARY DINNER

We apologize to late applicants who we were unable to accommodate at the Dinner on O.M.'s Birthday, November 16

OBITUARIES

WE REGRET to report the following deaths.

JIM NICHOLSON, 82, who joined British Union the week after the Olympia meeting in 1934. He had gone with a group of IIP-ers and Reds to cause trouble but when seeing what was happening and hearing OM he said to himself, "I'm in the wrong lot" and signed up.

'Nick', East London born, joined Battersea Branch and became an active member. Although little over five feet he was useful in certain areas. Among other work skills he had been an 'all-in-wrestler'!

After army service in the war he joined Union Movement. After a 'rowing' life he and his old Battersea comrade, the editor, accidentally met earlier this year and he joined FOM's list, and if he had lived probably have been at the Centenary Dinner.

On October 1st., Mrs ENID BENTINCK-BUDD, widow of staunch Blackshirt and BU Parliamentary Candidate Captain Charles Bentinck-Budd, Roy. Engineers (ret'd).

When the Leader died we all felt robbed. After all, he was still in his prime - only 84 years old! We thought he would go on for ever but as he used to tell us, "Just when you gain a little wisdom it's time to die". He had a terrific sense of humour, even in the 1930s when he felt the need to protect a greater degree of gravitas.

On his death, the Editor of "Action" wrote:

"The world will not see his light again in many a long year. He had brains, guts and an infinite capacity to charm".

And that's how I will always think of him.

1896

November 16th

1996

O.M.

English and European Patriot, Revolutionary, Leader of Men

'The Spirit Lives...The Rest Will Follow'